

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP UR (KISSINGER, H.A.)

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF TOASTS BETWEEN ANDREI GROMYKO, USSR

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECRETARY OF

STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER AT LUNCHEON, MOSCOW, OCT

24, 1974

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT AND NESSEN

1. FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO:

BEGIN TEXT: MR. SECRETARY OF STATE, MRS. KISSINGER, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN, WE EXPRESS OUR SATISFACTION WITH THE FACT THAT THE
SECRETARY OF STATE IS ONCE AGAIN ON A VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION,
AND WE HAVE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS BETWEEN THE
SECRETARY OF STATE AND OUR LEADERS ON VERY IMPORTANT QUESTIONS OF
INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. YOU HAD YOUR FIRST CONVERSATION WITH
LEONID BREZHNEV, THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.
HE WAS PLEASED TOGETHER WITH MY OTHER COLLEAGUES WITH THIS TALK
AND THIS IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY. THIS CONVERSATION WAS A
VERY USEFUL ONE WITH A VERY IMPORTANT CONTENT. WHILE THERE ARE
STILL VERY IMPORTANT QUESTIONS REMAINING TO BE DISCUSSED, I CAN
SAY QUITE CONFIDENTLY THAT BOTH SIDES ARE ENCOURAGED IN THESE
FRANK DISCUSSIONS AND THAT THIS IS IN ACCORD WITH THE PRACTICE
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THAT HAS COME INTO BEING BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET UNION

AND THE UNITED STATES.

ALREADY ON THE BASIS OF THIS DISCUSSION, I AM SURE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DRAW THE CONCLUSION THAT THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP ON THE WHOLE AND LEONID BREZHNEV, OUR SECRETARY, IS IN FAVOR OF CONTINUING THE LINE THAT WAS INITIATED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. ACHIEVEMENTS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE HAVE BEEN REGISTERED IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THEY ARE WELL KNOWN AND I WILL NOT GO OVER THEM AGAIN, BUT NOW THE MAIN TASK IS TO CONTINUE THE LINE JOINTLY TAKEN IN THESE RELATIONS AND DEVELOP AND ENCOURAGE THESE RELATIONS. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS STILL FIRMLY IN FAVOR OF CONTINUING THAT LINE.

LEONID BREZHNEV DURING THAT CONVERSATION EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT FORD WHO IS IN FAVOR OF DEVELOPING SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND WHO IS IN FAVOR OF CONTINUING THAT LINE AND THIS IS FULLY IN ACCORD WITH OUR OWN LINE OF POLICY.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THIS HAS INDEED BEEN EMPHASIZED ON BOTH SIDES; THAT FURTHER SUCCESS, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY FURTHER AND BIG SUCCESSES REQUIRE EFFORTS AND VIGOROUS EFFORTS ON BOTH SIDES. WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE THOSE EFFORTS. I BELIEVE THAT IF BOTH SIDES DISPLAY THE DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE AND ADVANCE ALONG THIS PATH, BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION AND BOTH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE SOVIET PEOPLE CAN LOOK CONFIDENTLY AND OPTIMISTICALLY INTO THE FUTURE. AS I SAID THERE ARE STILL MANY MORE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED, QUESTIONS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, AND IT IS, THEREFORE, TOO EARLY TO SPEAK OR EVEN HINT AT THE POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF THESE MEETINGS, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT OUR MEETINGS WITH YOU ON THESE MATTERS WHICH ARE OF IMMENSE INTEREST FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL LEAD TO POSITIVE RESULTS.

WE REGRET THAT THIS VISIT IS ALL TOO BRIEF. AND ONCE AGAIN YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SEE VERY MUCH OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW.

AS I SEE IT, YOU STILL HAVE CERTAIN DOUBTS AS TO THE EXISTENCE OF LENINGRAD. BUT WE HOPE THAT AFTER MRS. KISSINGER'S TRIP TO LENINGRAD, SHE WILL SUCCEED IN CONFIRMING TO YOU THAT
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LENINGRAD DOES EXIST.

I WOULD LIKE TO RAISE OUR GLASSES IN TOAST TO THE POSITIVE OUTCOME OF THESE MEETINGS, TO THE STRENGTH OF COOPERATION OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES, OF THE JOINT INTEREST IN DETENTE AND THE STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES.

2. SECRETARY KISSINGER:

BEGIN TEXT: MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND FRIENDS AND MRS. GROMYKO, I HAVE BEEN ASKED AS USUAL A VERY DIRECT QUESTION BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHICH IS TO AFFIRM THE EXISTENCE OF LENINGRAD. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WE ARE IN THE PRELIMINARY STAGE OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS TOO EARLY TO DRAW A FINAL CONCLUSION BUT WE HAVE TALKED IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE MANNER AND I THINK WITH GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES WE MAY ACHIEVE A REASONABLE CONCLUSION. WE CAN NOT EXPECT TO MAKE A UNILATERAL CONCESSION--ON SO GRAVE A QUESTION THAT MUST BE ON A MUTUAL BASIS.

ON BEHALF OF MRS. KISSINGER AND MYSELF AND MY COLLEAGUES, LET ME THANK YOU FOR THE CHARACTERISTICALLY WARM RECEPTION THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED HERE IN A COUNTRY THAT BASED ITS VIEWS ON THE PREDOMINANCE OF OBJECTIVE FACTORS. THOSE OF US WHO COME FROM AN EARLIER STAGE OF IDEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT CAN PERHAPS SAY A PERSONAL WORD: WHEN WE COME TO MOSCOW WE NO LONGER FEEL THAT WE ARE AMONG FOREIGNERS. WE HAVE BEEN COLLEAGUES NOW THROUGH MANY DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS, THROUGH MANY COMPLICATED PERIODS IN PURSUIT OF A COMMON OBJECTIVE. WE ARE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, TO STRENGTHEN DETENTE AND THEREBY ENHANCE PEACE FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.

WE SPEAK WITH GREAT FRANKNESS AND THERE ARE MANY OCCASIONS WHEN WE DO NOT AGREE, BUT WE ARE ALWAYS ANIMATED BY THE DESIRE TO NARROW OUR DIFFERENCES AND TO ACHIEVE OUR COMMON PURPOSES.

AS WE LOOK BACK AT THE PAST TWO YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN,
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OF COURSE A FEW DISAPPOINTMENTS, BUT THE MAIN TREND HAS BEEN EXTREMELY POSITIVE. WE HAVE AGREED ON MAJOR PRINCIPLES, AND WE HAVE ACHIEVED MANY SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS. WE EXCHANGE IDEAS ON ALL GREAT PROBLEMS WITH GREAT FRANKNESS AND GENERALLY WITH VERY POSITIVE RESULTS.

WHEN I CAME TO WASHINGTON, THE SOVIET UNION WAS CONSIDERED A PERMANENT ADVERSARY. TODAY ONE CAN ALREADY SAY THAT THE POSSIBILITIES OF WAR BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAS BEEN REDUCED TO NEGLIGIBLE PROPORTIONS AND THE TENSIONS WHICH WERE SO CHARACTERISTIC OF EARLIER PERIODS HAVE LARGELY BEEN STEMMED. NOW OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO GIVE THIS CONDITION A PERMANENT AND IRREVERSIBLE BASIS. THROUGH ALL THE UPS AND DOWNS IN OUR RELATIONS, THROUGH A CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION, IT HAS BEEN A FRIM AND CONTINUING PRINCIPLE OF AMERICAN

POLICY THAT THE US AND SOVIET UNION HAVE A VERY SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRESERVING THE PEACE IN THE WORLD AND FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE POSITIVE ASPIRATIONS OF MANKIND. THIS POSITIVE PEACE RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE FOSTERED WITH GREAT ENERGY BY OUR ADMINISTRATION. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT WE CONDUCTED OUR FIRST TALKS THIS MORNING WITH THE FIRST SECRETARY.

I FULLY AGREE WITH THE EVALUATION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE TALKS THIS MORNING WERE USEFUL. IT WAS A VERY GOOD BEGINNING. I AGREE WITH HIM FURTHER THAT WITH GREAT EFFORTS ON BOTH SIDES WE CAN MARK VERY CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. I CAN PLEDGE THESE EFFORTS FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE. WE NOTE THE COMMENTS MADE BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER WITH RESPECT TO THE SOVIET SIDE SO WE REALIZE THE POTENTIALITIES THAT ARE BEFORE US. THIS PROCESS OF DETENTE WHICH WE STARTED AND ARE NOW CONTINUING WILL MARK AN HISTORIC CHANGE IN PEOPLE AND A MAJOR ADVANCE TOWARDS A LASTING PEACE. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT WE WILL CONDUCT NOT ONLY THESE DISCUSSIONS, BUT OUR ENTIRE RELATIONS.

IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER, TO THE EXPANSION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES, FOR THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN SOVIET AND AMERICAN PEOPLE AND TO

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PERMANENT PEACE.
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